

Across the freeway from the giant Novato shopping center called Vintage Oaks runs a brackish haven for water fowl, lined with cat-tails and, on the weekends, cars of the many visitors. Rescued from developers who would have turned it into condos, this lovely marsh attracts birds, frogs, snakes, people and dogs. For commuters stuck in the nightmare traffic that lines the freeway to the east, Scottsdale Marsh is a reminder of to relax.

It is also, says Sangster, one of the most outstanding such projects in the United States.

How did one man accomplish so much? He works long hours, yes, but even more, he knows how to lead. Larry's sparkling personality brings people together and puts them at ease. They recognize he is genuine. Sangster explains that he is not only a good delegator, but he inspires confidence in others to make decisions—and they are good decisions. He expects the best and people rise to the occasion.

In addition to his dedication to the City of Novato, Larry is a devoted family man who assumed leadership responsibility for his own children's sports groups as they were growing up. And he's the kind of friend who is always there to help out.

"He always puts his friends above his personal plans," Sangster says, recounting how 10 years ago, Larry and his wife gave up travel plans for their anniversary in order to attend her husband's funeral. "Everybody is important to him."

Madam Speaker, every part of the City of Novato bears the stamp of Larry Dito's efforts to improve life for every member of the community—young, old, wealthy, working-class or needy, athlete or amateur. But even more, the residents of Novato carry the legacy of this man's example—that one person can be the catalyst for change to create a community.

And that, Madam Speaker, is why I honor Larry Dito on his retirement, after 35 years in service to a community forever in his debt.

MILITARY RESERVIST AND VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Improve & Expand Small Business Assistance Programs for Veterans Act of 2007. America's veterans have given their best for this country, for the freedoms that we cherish so much, and we must give them our best in return.

This legislation would expand the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development in order to facilitate better business outreach to our Nation's veterans. The legislation requires that the SBA open two additional Veterans' Outreach offices in the coming year and expand opportunities for women veterans. It would also allow veterans to obtain reduced fee SBA loans.

Approximately 5 percent of the 80 million small businesses in this country are owned by veterans. Veteran-owned small businesses have a higher success rate than other small

businesses, perhaps because of the strong work ethic and value system that the military imbues in its soldiers. I support this legislation because it will help veterans to enter and compete in today's business world, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation today.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEAN AGUILLEN

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dean Aguilén, an intelligent individual who has been on Speaker PELOSI's staff since 2002. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, he most recently served as a Senior Adviser and Director of Member Services in the Speaker's office. Dean's hard work, dedication, and skills are the reasons why he was so respected by his colleagues and Members.

I had the pleasure of knowing Dean over the last several years. Dean attended the weekly Congressional Hispanic Caucus, CHC, luncheons to give our caucus a House update and he proved to always be responsive to our needs. He was a valuable player in the Speaker's office and he represented her well before the CHC. He has made a lasting impression on the CHC and I commend Dean for his commitment to this country and to the Latino community.

While I am sad to see Dean leave, I am confident that the future will bring him much success. I wish Dean good health and the best of luck in all of his future endeavors. Buena suerte Dean.

RECOGNIZING NEWARK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, Ohio is known for football. Many players from the State's two NFL teams, and our No. 1 ranked Ohio State Buckeyes have been playing football in Ohio since childhood. The rich football tradition was again highlighted in my district, as I am proud to recognize Newark Catholic High School as Division VI State champions.

Head Coach Bill Franks's team didn't have an easy road to get the championship title, it was a road paved with hard work and determination. This wasn't the first trip to the big game for Newark Catholic, as they have seven State titles under their belt. Even with a strong team, the competition was harder than ever this season. Newark Catholic had gigantic wins over both the second and sixth place teams, which earned them a ticket to the championship game against an unbeaten Bascom Hopewell-Loudon.

I feel honored to represent such a rich history of football at this high school. Newark Catholic won its first title back in 1978 and since then the Green Wave has claimed six championship titles. There is even a book telling the story of the exceptional football program at this high school titled, "Growing Up

Green: Newark Catholic Football and the 1985 State Championship."

After the 28–14 win on December 1, the school can proudly display their eighth title win. With a history like that, I'm sure the future is bright for this football program.

Congratulations to all of the coaches, players, families and community.

CONGRATULATING NELLE HARPER LEE ON THE OCCASION OF BEING AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor one of the most beloved residents of Alabama, Miss Nelle Harper Lee, on the occasion of her receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

A native of Monroeville, Alabama, Miss Lee began her writing career at the University of Alabama where she wrote for student publications and served for one year as the editor of a campus humor magazine. She moved to New York City in 1950 where she worked as a reservations clerk with Eastern Air Lines and BOAC.

In 1956, Miss Lee found an agent, and soon after, she began the draft of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The novel was published on July 11, 1960, and became an immediate bestseller. She won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her novel, and in a 1999, poll run by the Library Journal, her novel was voted "Best Novel of the Century."

In 1966, Miss Lee was named to the National Council of Arts by President Johnson, and since that time, she has received many honorary doctorate degrees for her outstanding contributions to literature.

Madam Speaker, Miss Lee's masterpiece *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a model of literary achievement that has become an American classic. Its pages spoke a strong message of honor and tolerance during our Nation's struggle for equality. So, from one native south Alabamian to another, please accept my heartfelt expression of pride—on behalf of all of us who, over the years, have been touched in some way by "Mockingbird."

It is only appropriate that I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Miss Nelle Harper Lee on receiving this award. I know her sisters—Louise Lee Conner and Alice Lee—her family and her many friends join with me in praising her significant accomplishments.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to ask that President George W. Bush's remarks in honor of Miss Lee made at the ceremony for the 2007 Medal of Freedom recipients be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

PRESIDENT BUSH HONORS MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENTS, EAST ROOM—NOVEMBER 5, 2007

THE PRESIDENT. Good morning. Laura and I are thrilled to welcome you to the White House. We welcome the members of Congress, the members of the Cabinet, and other distinguished guests. It's an honor to be with the Medal of Freedom recipients, as well as their family members and friends. We're sure glad you're here.